operation, initially planned for January 2020, is unlikely to be launched before April 2020. The

approaching rainy seaso n is certain to pose additional logistical challenges. In the meantime, the

Missi on is hiring the required electoral support staff, following the adoption of the recent

MINUSC A m andate providing a full electoral support role.

5. The most p ressing issue is ensuring timely and adequate resources to en sure voter registration

and other preparati ons can proceed in a way that enables elections to take place from December

2020, in li ne with constitutional guidelines. The European Unio n has pledg ed €15 m illion

(approximately $17 mi ll ion) to the UNDP-managed electoral basket fund (estimated at $ 41.8

million). To date, UNDP has disbursed $1.5 million and the CAR Government has already

disbursed $2 million. The funding gap is around $20-21 million. Urgent disbursements are

needed to fund critical o perations t o ensure voter registration and for the establi shment of th e

ANE field offices and th e procurem ent of registration equipment. Voter registration needs to be

completed by July 2020 at the latest for the voter roll t o be finalized t o meet the December 2020

constitutional deadline for the first round of the Presidenti al election. The Consti tutional Court,

custodian of the const itutio nality of the electoral process and the High Authority of

Comm unication, which will play a key role in the monitoring of hate speech and fake news, as

well as regulate equal access to public medi a during the electoral campaign, als o need financial

support.

6. In my discussions with the African Union and some of its members (Sudan, Nigeria, South

Africa and Angola), we agreed t hat the support of neighboring and reg ional coun��耀ccH c the

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amongst partners and with the Government. On the other hand, the RCPCA process also does not

National Justice Sector Policy is important to support the fragile justice sector and court system,

19. Finally, I would like to reiterate the urgent needs in terms of funding for the elections. The
International Community can’t afford another relapse in the CAR. And the success of the
upcoming elections will be key in the stabilization of the country. Therefore I would like to urge
all member states to consider a participation to the UNDP Basket Fund, at their earliest
convenience, to allow for a smooth preparation process.